

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented): A pharmaceutical composition having an inhibitory effect on glomerular nephritis, diabetic nephropathy or tissue fibrosis caused by the overproduction and the accumulation of extracellular matrix, said composition comprising as an active ingredient an effective amount of a compound that inhibits the biological activity of galectin-3, which promotes the production of extracellular matrix from an extracellular matrix-producing cell.

2-4. (canceled)

5. (withdrawn) The pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any of~~ claims 1 ~~to~~ 4, wherein the compound having an inhibitory effect on the biological activity of galectin-3 is an anti-galectin 3 antibody.

6. (currently amended): The pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1 ~~and~~ 3, wherein the compound having an inhibitory effect on the biological activity of galectin-3 is an inhibitor of galectin-3 binding.

7. (withdrawn): The pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any of~~ claims 1 ~~to~~ 4, wherein the compound having an inhibitory effect on the biological activity of galectin-3 is a compound that inhibits the incorporation of galectin-3 into the cell.

8. **(withdrawn):** The pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~, wherein the compound that inhibits the biological activity of galectin-3 is a compound that modulates the transfer of galectin-3 into the nucleus.

9. **(withdrawn):** The pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~, wherein the compound that inhibits the biological activity of galectin-3 is a compound that inhibits the physiological activity of galectin-3 in the nucleus or the cytoplasm.

10. **(withdrawn):** The pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~, wherein the compound that inhibits the biological activity of galectin-3 is a compound that modulates the expression or secretion of galectin-3.

11. **(currently amended):** The pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 and 3~~, which is a therapeutic or preventive agent.

12. **(currently amended):** The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13, wherein the glomerular nephritis, diabetic nephropathy or tissue fibrosis is glomerular nephritis, diabetic nephropathy or tissue fibrosis, respectively, caused by the abnormal proliferation of mesangium cells.

13.-16. **(cancelled)**

17. **(withdrawn):** The use according to any of claims 13 to 16, wherein the compound having an inhibitory effect on the biological activity of galectin-3 is an anti-galectin 3 antibody.

18. **(canceled)**

19. (withdrawn): The use according to any of claims 13 to 16, wherein the compound having an inhibitory effect on the biological activity of galectin-3 is a compound that inhibits the incorporation of galectin 3 into the cell.

20. (withdrawn): The use according to any of claims 13 to 16, wherein the compound that inhibits the biological activity of galectin-3 is a compound that modulates the transfer of galectin 3 into the nucleus.

21. (withdrawn): The use according to any of claims 13 to 16, wherein the compound that inhibits the biological activity of galectin-3 is a compound that inhibits the physiological activity of galectin 3 in the nucleus or the cytoplasm.

22. (withdrawn): The use according to any of claims 13 to 16, wherein the compound that inhibits the biological activity of galectin-3 is a compound that modulates the expression or secretion of galectin 3.

23-24. (canceled)

25. (currently amended): A method for ~~inhibition of~~ therapeutic or preventive treatment of glomerular nephritis, diabetic nephropathy or tissue fibrosis caused by the overproduction and the accumulation of extracellular matrix, said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound having an inhibitory effect on the biological activity of galectin-3, which promotes the production of extracellular matrix from an extracellular matrix-producing cell, to a subject which needs said inhibition, to thereby inhibit glomerular nephritis, diabetic nephropathy or tissue fibrosis caused by the overproduction and accumulation of extracellular matrix.

26.-28. (cancelled)

29. (withdrawn): The method according to ~~any of claims 25 to 28~~, wherein the compound having an inhibitory effect on the biological activity of galectin-3 is an anti-galectin-3 antibody.

30. (previously presented): The method according to claim 25, wherein the compound having an inhibitory effect on the biological activity of galectin-3 is an inhibitor of galectin-3 binding.

31. (withdrawn): The method according to ~~any of claims 25 to 28~~, wherein the compound having an inhibitory effect on the biological activity of galectin-3 is a compound that inhibits the incorporation of galectin-3 into the cell.

32. (withdrawn): The method according to ~~any of claims 25 to 28~~, wherein the compound that inhibits the biological activity of galectin-3 is a compound that modulates the transfer of galectin 3 in the nucleus.

33. (withdrawn): The method according to ~~any of claims 25 to 28~~, wherein the compound that inhibits the biological activity of galectin-3 is a compound that inhibits the physiological activity of galectin-3 in the nucleus or the cytoplasm.

34. (withdrawn): The method according to ~~any of claims 25 to 28~~, wherein the compound that inhibits the biological activity of galectin-3 is a compound that modulates the expression or secretion of galectin-3.

35.-36. (canceled)

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
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37. (new): The method according to claim 25, wherein the glomerular nephritis, diabetic nephropathy or tissue fibrosis is glomerular nephritis, diabetic nephropathy or tissue fibrosis, respectively, caused by the abnormal proliferation of mesangium cells.